(b) if so, how the Coffee Board will ensure supply of coffee in the domestic market;

(c) whether Government is considering levy on coffee production for domestic market; and

(d) what is the role of Coffee Board in case of total decontrol of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHINDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Government has announced its decisions on FSQ on 22nd April, 1995 under which 100 per cent Free Sale Quota has been allowed to small growers having holding sie below 10 hec. and 70 per cent Free Sale Quota to other growers of coffee. Therefore, large growers having holding size of 10 hec. and above are expected to pool 30 per cent of their produce with the Board. The Coffee Board has also ben instructed to resort to direct purchase to ensure availability of coffee.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) The Coffee Board under the Coffee Act has been constituted for overall development of coffee industry in the country. In pursuance of the goals defined in the Act ,the Coffee Board will continue to provide assistance and expertise to the industry in developmental activities.

Subsidy for tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh

5112. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board will extend subsidy for tobacco farmers in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that a significant quantity of tobacco comes from tribal areas of Khammam, West Godavari and East Godavari districts, and

(c) the details of assistance proposed by Tabacco Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Tobacco farmers in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh are eligible for financial assistance under developmental and extension schemes of the Tobacco Board. It is estimated that about 0.4 million Kgs of ECV tobacco 6.5 million Kgs of burley tobacco and a small quantity of Natu tobacco was grown in the tribal areas of Khammam, West Godavari and East Godavari districts in 1994-95.

Shortage of Coffee

5113. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of coffee in the country;

(b) whether the Coffee Board had anticipated the present shortage; and

(c) what are the projections of the Coffee Board for production, domestic consumption and export demand over the next five years, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no shortage of coffee in the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Following projections have been made by the Coffee Board on production, consumption and export of coffee for the next five years:

(in tonnes)

Season	Production	Domestic Consumption	Export
1995-96	225,000	75,000	1,50,000
1996-97	242,000	80,650	1,61,350
1997-98	260,000	86,650	1,73,350
1998-99	280,000	93,350	1,86,650
999-2000	300,000	1,00,000	2,00,000

Forum of Indian ocean Nations

5114. SHRI G. Y. KRISHANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian Ocean nations agree on forum" appearing in "The Observer of Business and Politics", New Delhi dated 5th April, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) how far the proposed RIM trade will benefit India and in what spheres of exports of Indian products and imports from the Indian Ocean nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first meeting launching the Indian Ocean Rim Initative for Regional Economic Cooperation was held in Mauritius from 29—31 March, 1995. Apart from India countries invited by the Government of Mauritius to the meeting were Australia, Kenya, Oman, Singapore and South Africa. The meeting agreed on certain fundamentals of Indian Ocean Rim Regional Cooperation in adopting principles and objectives of identifying the scope of activities. The focus of cooperation is to be economic and will cover the areas of trade, investment, infrastructure, tourism, science & technology and human resource development. The meeting in Mauritius set up a Working Group which would formulate ideas and proposals to achieve objectives and advance implementation of the activities identified by it. An Intergovernmental Meeting to be convened by Mauritius within twelve months would consider the report of the working Group.

(c) While increase in intra-regional trade among the participating countries is generally expected to benefit these countries, it is too early to make an assessment of the quantum of benefit to India.

Cooperation between Tobacco Board and CTRI

5115. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tobacco Board is working closely with CTRI Rajahmundry to pass on the benefits of latest research to farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, details of cooperation initiated by the Tobacco Board with CTRI; and

(c) what benefits have accrued to tobacco farmers?